**MCCPTA Advocacy Committee Report- November 2021**

Committee members- Lima Abdullah, Laura Mitchell

**MCCPTA Advocacy Priorities draft**

The Vice President of Advocacy and Committee chairperson helped craft a process for delegate approval of the MCCPTA Advocacy Priorities.

***Process:*** A draft version that included language is reflective of the 2020-2021 priorities and language dramatically updated to reflect concerns reflected in our poll and common themes discussed on MCCPTA listservs among chapter members. Chapters were instructed to please put the advocacy priority draft language before their members, vote and make suggested changes as comments in the priorities draft. MCCPTA committees were similarly asked to gain consensus from their members and follow suit. The comments were due by Oct. 22nd. Comments that followed that process, were not overly prescriptive in outlining “how” to get the advocacy work done and, instead, focused on the “what” of priorities were accepted as proposed amendments.

The priorities draft and suggested changes were presented to delegates at Delegates Assembly on Oct. 26th. The MCCPTA led the meeting with the Vice President of Advocacy and Committee chairperson merging all delegate approved changes into the final version.

Members shared the finalized priorities with their members.

**Next steps:** The Vice President of Advocacy and Committee chairperson also attended the Board to Board meeting on Oct. 28, 2021 and sought to make the case for one of the Advocacy Priorities—Communication with families in a way that is clear, transparent and in a way that seeks to “eliminate the inequities speakers of other languages experience in participating in their student’s education.” We put forth an idea to hire multilingual translators to work in clusters or shared between schools with high non English-speaking populations.

Vaccination—The committee has also noted inequities in MCPS and DHHS’ handling of 5-11 COVID-19 vaccine clinics that cross several Advocacy Priorities including—Communication issues that disenfranchise non-English speakers, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion issues such that the Title 1 and Focus populations targeted were not adequately reached, and Health and Wellness issues such that there is space to conduct a more inclusive education campaign for populations of families that most need vaccine access.